NIAGARA NEWS

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Students plunge into Wintercourse '91

By DAVID REMPEL
Staff Writer

What do you get if you mix a polar bear dip with a touch football game, an obstacle course and one Bad Apple?

You get Wintercourse '91.

Despite the lack of students at some events, the third annual Student Administrative Council sponsored Wintercourse is described as "a success."

"We're really pleased with the turnout," Dave Brouwer, SAC athletic vice-president, said. "After such a slow start on Monday I really didn't think we'd get a better turnout. But on Tuesday we had 15 or 16 people out for the touch football game, four of which were girls (and we had) about 20 out for the polar bear dip (on Wednesday)."

"The week was a success," he said.

Wintercourse's "slow start" was the Feb. 4 obstacle course for which about 20 people signed up, but only one attended.

Although Lisa Fleck, a first-year vocational student, was the only competitor in the event, she didn't win by default. Because of the low turnout, she wasn't required to run the prescribed course but had to carry an egg on a spoon for about 30 feet.

"We had to make it official," Dave said.

Lisa won Wintercourse clothing for her efforts.

A two-hand-touch football game took place behind the Welland campus cafeteria on Tuesday. Fifteen people attended, and were divided into two teams, with the four females and four SAC members equally distributed. The field was muddy and caused many a slip, trip and wipe-out by the players.

Two Niagara College students take an icy plunge into Lake Gibson at Wednesday's polar bear dip. The event was part of the Student Administrative Council's week-long Wintercourse.

Photo by Neville Lewis

Who won?

"Well, all I can say is *they* won by a couple of touchdowns," Dave said referring to the other team. "But if they didn't have their quarterback and those girls, we would've had them. It was a lot of fun though."

The winning team received Wintercourse T-shirts.

The shore of Lake Gibson in Thorold was the site of one of mankind's most fearless, if not foolhardy, physical displays — the polar bear dip.

About 20 Niagara students were gathered beside the icy waters ready and eager to take the plunge. On a signal, everyone leaped into the lake and then quickly jumped out, but a few actually went in twice.

To win their SAC and Wintercourse clothing prizes, Dave said, the participants had to at least submerge themselves to their waist.

"To win a T-shirt, you have to go in up to your waist," Dave told the shivering crowd. "To win a towel, you have to go in up to your neck, and to win a T-shirt and a towel, you have to go all the way under."

Most of the participants won both a T-shirt and towel.

Two St. John's Ambulance paramedics were in attendance in case of injury and were called upon when one student cut his toe.

David Wilcox, the Bad Apple himself, performed at Niagara College on Wednesday.

Playing to a screaming, high-energy crowd at the Welland campus cafeteria, Mr. Wilcox and his band played a raucous 90 minute set which included many of his rock standards.

Dressed in a plain white shirt and jeans and playing a battered Telecaster, Mr. Wilcox played The Natural Edge, Bad Apple, Riverboat Fantasy and Downtown Came Uptown — just some of the tunes which electrified the crowd of nearly 500 people.

See WINTERCOURSE page 12

Council makes air quality testing priority

By DAVID REMPEL
Staff Writer

Niagara's College Council is taking steps to help improve the air quality at the college.

Mal Woodhouse, the college's health and safety officer, has been directed by council to begin air-quality testing at Niagara using existing in-house testing equipment.

Beginning in the Merritt building and continuing throughout the college, testing for carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide levels will be done during peak periods when students are in the buildings. The last tests were done in 1985.

"Some of the previous testing done by Physical Services showed that carbon dioxide levels were getting close to the 'comfort level' which is one thousand parts of CO2 per one million parts air," Mr. Woodhouse said. (We will) be testing again this year."

David Taylor, business instructor, said he has had enough with the air quality at Niagara's Welland Campus and took the matter formally to the College Council.

He approached council with a memo stating his concerns about the building's air quality. At the Jan. 8 council meeting, Mr. Taylor spoke about health concerns which have arisen in the Merritt building that may be related to air quality.

"I don't think it's an unreasonable request to breathe clean air while I'm at work," Mr. Taylor said.

He admitted while the issue of air quality is a complex one, he blames smokers who stand inside the doors of the school for the majority of the problems.

"Niagara College is a sealed environment," he said. "When you have a lot of smokers standing around inside, the smoke is going to spread. I often find it difficult to teach on the second floor of the Merritt wing because of the cigarette smoke rising up from the stairwell.

"It's ridiculous that a minority like the smokers should be able to infringe on my right to breathe clean air," he said. "The main problem is that Niagara has a smoking policy but doesn't bother to enforce it. This doesn't make sense to me. Why bother having a policy and not stand behind it? It's a joke.

"I have nothing against the smokers themselves," he said. "If they want to smoke, God bless

See QUALITY on page 12

Inside the News

Twins

Paul and Peter Sereda are often mistaken for each other. See page 11.

The Niagara News takes an indepth look at two important issues this week. On Page 5, staff writer Jennifer Bartkiw examines the issue of how young children are being affected by the Persian Gulf war. She talked with Early Childhood Education teachers at Niagara College and attended a recent seminar in St. Catharines on how teachers and parents are dealing with this sensitive topic.

On Page 6, staff writer Karen Gibson examinies both sides of the controversial abortion issue, following last week's Senate defeat of the federal government's proposed abortion bill. Also included is a personal comment column.

Daily fee for permit thievery

By RICHARD DOUGLAS
Staff Writer

Niagara College's parking policy is being enforced.

The policy allows for cars with stolen parking permits to be ticketed, towed away and the owner's parking privileges revoked.

With an estimated 25 parking permits stolen since September, Linda Maidens, building operations supervisor, said the college was searching for "a reasonable solution to the problem."

Instead of taking the matter to police, Ms. Maidens said the college felt "a deterrent" was the best recourse.

Those who have their parking privileges taken away will have to pay a dollar a day to park in the daily lot.

This ruling may apply to two students who have been caught with stolen permits this year, Ms. Maidens said.

The two students were in possession of staff parking permits, which are a darker color blue than the student permits.

"The reason she (the bylaw enforcement officer) found it (one of the stolen permits) was that the car was in such poor shape," Ms. Maidens said.

The bylaw officer noted the staff permit and then checked the licence plate number. The licence was registered to a student and the permit was reported stolen, Ms. Maidens said.

The other permit that was returned, was found by the person from whom it had been stolen.

In both cases the students can appeal their penalties in writing to the College Parking Appeals Committee, Ms. Maidens said.

The committee, formed last year, is comprised of a student member, a faculty member, a support staff member and a member from management. The committee reviews each case and gives its decision in writing to the appellant.

"We haven't had very many formal cases," Sandy Fox, committee chairman, said. Many times students with tickets will talk to her before formally complaining and admit they were in the wrong but still feel the ticket was unjustified. "There's not much I can do for you when you admit to parking illegally," she said. "Some of them have chosen to go to court (it is a City of Welland parking ticket) and once they do that, it's out of our hands."

With new students on campus this term, Mrs. Fox said more should be done to inform them of the parking rules and policies. They should be informed that parking permits can only be purchased through the school and permits must be properly displayed on a car's rear-view mirror.

"It's a matter of making them aware," she said. She also said if anyone has a question about the school's parking policy, an official in the parking office (H14) should be contacted.

Effects of GST widely felt

By ROBERT FINLAY
Staff Writer

Since the introduction of the federal government's goods and services tax Jan. 1, Canadians have struggled to come to grips with the widespread economic changes that major tax reform can initiate.

While the less-obvious effects of this tax will not be felt for months, or possibly years, some of the effects are being felt by Welland-area businesses already.

"(Customer's) reaction to the tax is negative, but they pay it," Tom Adams, manager of John Pomer Menswear in the Seaway Mall, said. "A lot of people's attitude is just 'Well, Mulroney's taking our money.' "

Mr. Adams said that he had one customer not buy an item because of the GST.

"People mention it, but they accept it pretty quick," Daryl Ireland, salesperson at John Pomer, said. One of the biggest problems with the GST, he said, was "listening to people complain about it."

"Just about every day I come into work people talk about one of two things: GST and the (Persian Gulf) war," Mr. Adams said. "I don't mind the tax because I get a rebate. If it wasn't the GST it would be a tax somewhere else."

Mary Cunningham, manager of the Niagara College bookstore, said students have reacted well to the GST. "We haven't had a problem with the GST," she said. "Some people actually expected to see more of a price increase than they have."

Clothing and book prices have stayed the same at the bookstore, while stationery has decreased marginally in price.

One problem Mrs. Cunningham said the store had was in not getting the GST-adjusted cash registers in time for Jan. 1. Until the computer chips needed are in place, bookstore staff add the seven per cent at the cash register, allowing buyers to see exactly how much tax they are paying.

One of the largest retailers in Canada, Woolco Inc., has incorporated the tax into ticket prices, allowing consumers to see how much money the tax has added to the cost of an item, if any.

Mike Shaw, section manager at the Woolco store in the Seaway Mall, Welland, said most consumers have accepted the tax-inclusive pricing, although most complaints were caused by confusion, he said.

"We think we've taken the right step with 'hassle free' pricing. I've certainly had more positive comments than negative comments," he said.

One concern consumers expressed was that Woolco was stacking taxes by including the tax in the ticket price, thus having eight per cent provincial sales tax charged on the item as well as the GST.

"We're not piggybacking taxes. Our cash registers are programmed to subtract the GST and calculate only on the actual price of the item," he said.

Mr. Shaw said most items have remained at pre-GST prices, except for some hardware and automotive items.

The GST, combined with the recession and fears about the war in the Persian Gulf, has hurt sales at Woolco.

"There's been a noticeable drop in sales, but it's hard to determine how much of it's been due to the GST," he said. "In my 18 years with the company, this is the first time the company has expected a decrease in sales."

One of the major selling points the federal government used for the GST was that new car prices would drop. True to form, some car prices have come down.

Kent Peters, sales manager at Al Slattery Ford in Welland, said there has been about a five per cent drop in new car prices — a fact auto dealers see as a big advantage.

"It's a big benefit, aside from the accounting side. We consider it a boon to the auto industry," he said. "We had a good month in January because we can advertise cars at a much cheaper price, and they are cheaper."

For example, an $18,000 vehicle which would carry about $1,800 in tax pre-GST now carries about $1,100 in tax post GST.

However, the news is not all good where automobile sales are concerned, Mr. Peters said.

"We're taking our lumps in the used-car market. We're taking about a 10 to 20 per cent loss on (them)," he said. "We knew the prices were going to drop, but we didn't know how painful it would be."

The overall picture for automotive dealers, he said, would be to gain in the new car market, but lose substantially on used-car sales.

"It will be positive in the long term, but negative in the short term," Mr. Peters said.

Middle income earners hardest hit by GST

A Niagara College economics instructor says while the federal government's goods and services tax may be bad for middle income earners, the tax should be a positive thing for Canada.

Teresa Menzies, an economics and law professor at Niagara, said although Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's imposition of the new tax was "political dynamite," the GST should help pay off the $380 billion federal deficit, boost Canadian exports and encourage investment in Canadian companies.

"The GST will definitely be a plus once people get over the psychological impact of paying two taxes at the same time," she said.

Consumers in Ontario pay eight per cent provincial sales tax and seven per cent GST, making many purchases subject to a total of 15 per cent tax.

Unfortunately, she said, many people feel penalized by the tax due to problems in implementing it. As low-income earners are given GST credits and high-income earners can afford the tax, the burden of the tax has fallen on middle-income earners.

"If one is just above the rebate level, yet not rich, this tax can be a burden. People in the middle income will definitely suffer," she said.

In theory, the tax will be beneficial. In practice, Mrs. Menzies said, there may be problems.

"This tax should benefit us all, but if the government mishandles it, it (the economic situation) will just get worse," she said.

As well, increased costs have been incurred with the tax — such as new staff and office space — that the government had promised to avoid. The answer, Mrs. Menzies said, could have been to let the provinces collect the tax, thereby avoiding the need for the federal government to set up another bureaucracy to collect it.

Although some have questioned introducing the tax during a recession, she said that it may well have been the best time in terms of economics.

"By introducing the GST during a recession, retailers have had to lower prices to increase sales in any case." Therefore, she said, the price-shock effect of the tax was considerably lessened.

Since the GST has been in effect for less than a month, it is difficult to tell what kind of effect it is having on the economy. As well, Mrs. Menzies said, economic policies are hard to gauge during a recession.

"Unless we're (North America) all on the road to recovery, they (the tax reforms) are not going to have the best effect they could," she said.

Preparation key to job hunt

It's been four weeks since you mailed your resume to prospective businesses. Of 40 resumes sent, five firms have called for an interview. Consider yourself lucky.

Most people are anxious about interviews, but anyone can learn the techniques to make a good impression.

Interviewers want to know three things: your interpersonal skills, your experience and the reason why they should hire you.

In the first five minutes — the most important part — the interviewer quickly receives a first impression and then spends the rest of the interview finding reasons to agree or disagree with this impression.

Good personal appearance, being on time, and offering a firm handshake are not the only things that will make a good impression.

Preparation is the first step. Applicants who take the time to find out about the company before the interview have an advantage.

Rehearse how you think the interview will go with a friend or by yourself. Being prepared for questions will mean a less stressful interview.

The main question on the interviewer's mind is, Why should I hire you over the other applicants? Be prepared to answer the following questions.

1. What are your strengths/weaknesses?
2. Tell me about yourself.
3. How has your education prepared you for this job?
4. Why do you want this job?
5. What do you do in your spare time?
6. What do you know about our company?
7. Why did you choose this occupation?
8. Where do you see yourself in five years?
9. Is there anything else you'd like to add?
10. Do you have any questions?

Being able to answer these questions will improve your confidence and performance in the interview. As well as being prepared to answer routine questions, you should prepare your own questions.

Before going to the interview, know how to pronounce the interviewer's name and how he or she would like to be addressed (Miss, Mrs., etc.).

Always bring extra copies of your resume to the interview. A copy can be attached to the application form and the words, see attached resume, written on the form. It is a good idea to have a copy of the resume in front of you to refer to in the interview.

Take a list of references and a portfolio, if you have one, to the interview. You can never be too prepared.

Shown making the first delivery of fine paper recycling bins and baskets are Earth Now! committee members, from left, Joan Greaves, Helen Parkinson and Cory Abt, Student Administrative Council president.

Photo by Lorraine Gibbs

Good Samaritan saves the day

By LORRAINE GIBBS
Staff Writer

In today's society, rarely does one hear about a good Samaritan helping another person, but as Brigitta Verbraeken, a second-year Educational Resources and Special Needs student, found out last Friday, there are a few good Samaritans left.

Brigitta lost 17 envelopes in the Simcoe building at 8:30 a.m. outside the Media Arts Department. The envelopes were part of an assignment, she said.

Mark Nesbitt, a first-year Journalism-Print student, found the envelopes, hoping to find free stationery. "I thought it was just then I realized they were sealed," he said.

A reporter for the Niagara News read through one of the sealed envelopes — which were addressed to a number of organizations such as the Canadian Cerebral Palsy Association, National Technical Institute for the Deaf and the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation — and let Brigitta know they had been found.

Mark brought the envelopes to the Niagara News newsroom because "I figured you might know to whom they belonged," he said.

Inside the envelopes was a letter requesting information on learning tools and post-secondary education for those with special needs. "It is part of our one-month placement. We have to be able to get information from these places," Brigitta said.

When the information is returned from places as far away as Austin, Texas; Columbus, Ohio; Washington, D.C.; Calgary, Alta. and a number of Toronto-area organizations, the class will open the packages and share the information. "It's pretty exciting," she said.

"When I discovered the envelopes were missing, I was terrified. I jumped up and ran into the hall. My heart sank when I saw they were gone," Brigitta said.

"I pick up everything I find," Mark said. "I'm just a naturally curious guy."

Earth Now! takes action

Departmental changes, not bureaucracy, were the main reasons for delays in action on environmental issues at the college, Linda Maidens, building operations supervisor, said.

"Our department was the obvious place for it (recycling) to start, and we've gone through departmental changes in the last year and a half. It's hard to put such an important issue together," she said.

With the help of Ms. Maidens, an environmental club has been formed. Named Earth Now!, the club is co-ordinating the fine paper recycling program at the Welland Campus. While funding is a problem, the club is applying for grants. Funds will be allocated towards hiring a student to collect and monitor recyclable goods part-time. Resumes can be submitted to Cory Abt in the Student Administrative Council office.

The club needs a letterhead design. A contest will be held to select the best logo. Entry is open to all college students. Prizes will be announced with contest details. Interested artists are asked to attend the next club meeting.

Earth Now! will meet Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 12:30 p.m. in room ME 100B (Business Conference area).

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Radio man stresses work experience

By JENNIFER BARTKIW
Staff Writer

Les Walton, morning newscaster for 97.7 HTZ FM and 610 CKTB AM, told 35 first-year radio and television students "to get out and get a job."

Mr. Walton, 34, visited the Welland campus last Friday to speak to students about his career in radio, what he likes about it, his most memorable experiences, and what characteristics make a good journalist.

"When I started in this business in the 70s the majority of people did not have a college diploma," he said, stressing experience attained at college should be tempered with time spent working in the business.

"You are going to get your foot in the door with your diploma; but, if you don't have any references to put on your resume your employer is going to say thank you very much — I can find someone else," Mr. Walton said.

He speaks from experience, having graduated from Conestoga College's broadcasting program in Kitchener in 1979. He had several part-time jobs while in school.

"After my first year in college I wanted to get a job. I worked as an all-night disc jockey in Cambridge from midnight to 7 a.m. Saturday nights. I drove from St. Thomas to Cambridge — 1½ hours — and made $1.95 an hour. There was no money to be made but at least it gave me something to put on my resume."

While still in college, Mr. Walton had three part-time jobs working at small radio stations in Simcoe, Stratford and Cambridge. "I worked all three radio stations in one day: mornings at one, afternoons at another and evenings at the third," he said.

Mr. Walton admits the job industry in the Niagara Region is tight and competitive. "But the opportunities are there if you're willing to go out and hustle for them," he said.

Students should be flexible when looking for a job and should consider relocating to another area to learn their trade, he said. "The key to success is staying on top of what's going on and being able to go with the flow."

Mr. Walton enjoys working in the radio industry: his job is different every day, he works with creative people and "it's a lot of fun. Here's a job that basically pays you to drink coffee, read the newspaper and talk for five minutes an hour," he said.

February is when employers receive Summer Experience Employment Development grants from the government.

"Now is the time news directors are looking for part-time staff. Students should be down there bugging these guys to the point of being told either to get lost or you're hired," he said.

Mr. Walton regrets when he was a student never being told the rate of pay he would receive to start and the number of hours he would be working. "They're (news directors) not going to give you the best hours .... You're not going to make a whole lot of money. I wish I could have known that so I could have prepared myself," he said.

"But the money is there in the end. If you persevere you will have the dollars .... but you have to prove yourself first."

Mr. Walton, a native of St. Thomas, moved to St. Catharines in 1979. He was employed by CHSC and CHRE for 5½ years before moving to 610 CKTB AM. "Then HTZ FM came along and everything rolled from there," he said.

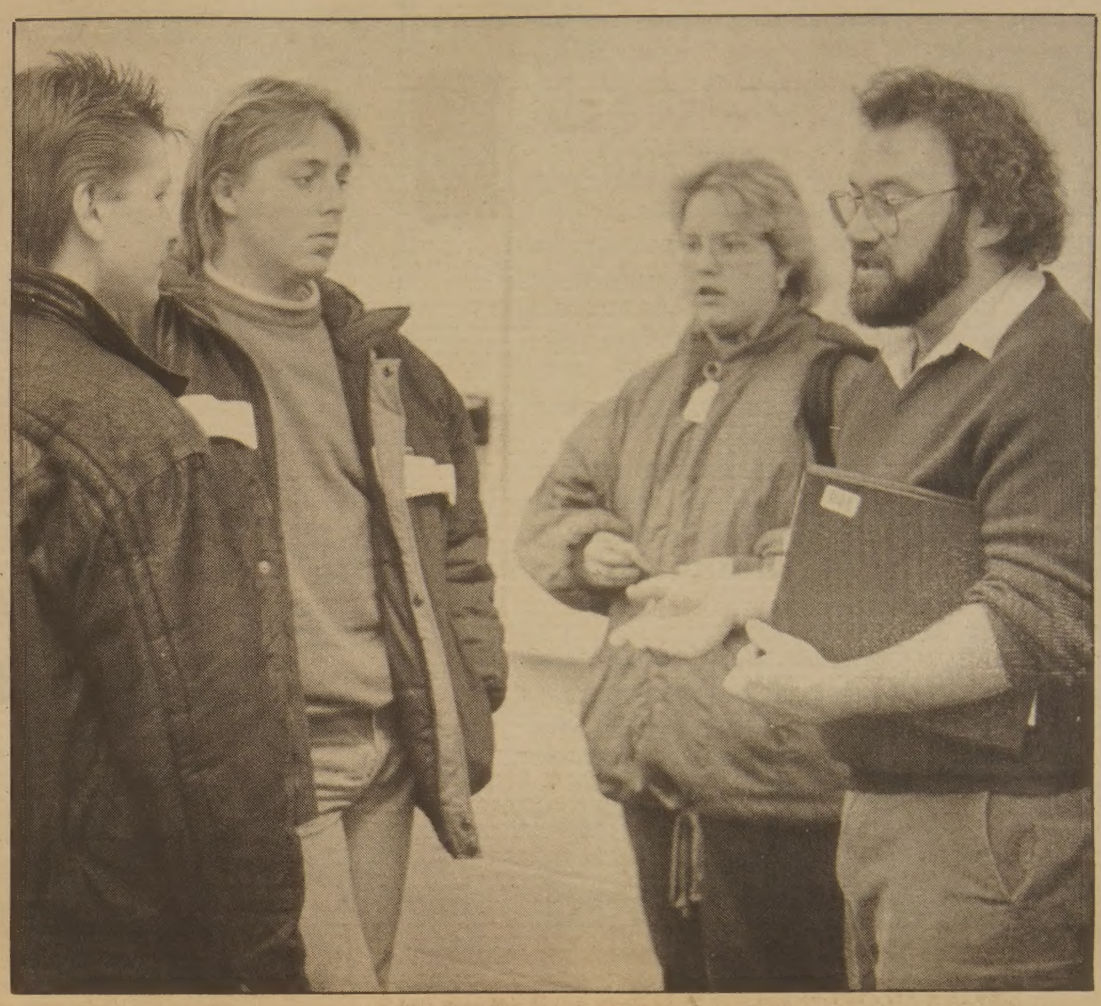
Mr. Walton works Monday to Friday from 4:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the radio station in St. Catharines. He said the industry continues to change. "We have gone computerized which is something new for radio newsrooms," he said. "All of a sudden we have to become computer friendly — something we have never done before. Twelve years ago this (computers) was not part of our curriculum. A lot has changed; you have to change."

Mr. Walton is "very happy" in Niagara and sees himself staying with HTZ FM for a while. "I can't see Toronto in my future," he said. "In some ways this (radio station) is big enough to be a Toronto. HTZ is very big — the numbers show it, we have excellent (rating) books and the Toronto audience — so basically I'm in the Toronto, Hamilton and Niagara markets. It's all there."

HTZ FM is one of the top radio stations in the province with the 18 to 39-year-old age group.

Mr. Walton never planned to get into radio when he was in high school but got interested in radio in college and everything fell into place from there. "It interested me because I wasn't doing the same thing every day. I thought I would try it . . . so far it has worked for my career," he said.

Mr. Walton understands times are tough but he believes "the work is there is you want to go out and look for it."



Les Walton, news announcer from 97.7 HTZ FM, (right) spoke with first-year broadcast radio and television students Danny Gilbert (left), Scott Roland and Amber Nitschke when he visited the Welland campus last Friday. He spoke to the class about his personal experiences in radio, in past jobs and in college.

Photo by Jennifer Bartkiw

Nursing assistants graduate

The first class of Registered Nursing Assistant students to be sponsored by the Niagara Peninsula Industrial Education Council will graduate Feb. 15.

The graduation ceremonies will be held at 10 a.m. at the Parkway Inn in St. Catharines, Margaret Fast, co-ordinator of the Registered Nursing Assistant program at the Mack campus, said.

Along with being the first Niagara Peninsula Industrial Council-sponsored group, this class was the first to take a 15-week preparatory course prior to the Registered Nursing Assistant course.

They began the Registered Nursing Assistant course May 25, 1990 and attended classes throughout the summer.

The course started with 40 students. A total of 22 students are graduating, Miss Fast said.

The graduates will write their registration examinations March 23.

Ham radio scans world

By ROBERT FINLAY
Staff Writer

Ham radio has nothing to do with ham, hammers or hamsters. It does, however, have a lot to do with radio — radio communications, that is.

Niagara College has its own radio communicators, better known as the amateur radio club. The group, made up of six third-year electronic technology students, scans the airwaves from the office in the Lundy building of the Welland campus.

Amateur radio, more commonly known as "ham" radio, is a radio system which allows individuals access to global communication. Unlike citizen's band radio, amateur radio has a much longer range, many more frequencies and the capability of using satellites for worldwide communications.

"(We've) spoken to people in England, West Germany, the United States," Ron Gasbarini, president of the club, said. "English is the international language of amateur radio."

The club uses a wide range of equipment, including three separate radios, rooftop antennae and a computer image unit which allows visual images to be transmitted from one operator to another. This technique, called "slowscanning" has been used by the club to transmit images to Europe and back.

Although amateur radio is primarily for recreational use, Mr. Gasbarini said sometimes it is used in emergency situations, such as in 1989 when a large earthquake struck San Francisco. During that time, he said, radios were used to relay phone calls and check on people in areas where phone service was cut off.

Amateur radio can also be used to pick up military transmissions; civilian radio operators in the United States have reported picking up communications from U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf, although electronics professor and the group's staff advisor Roy Blake said, "most military communications will be in code or scrambled."

As well, communication with certain countries is not allowed by United Nations rules regarding amateur radio; Iraq, for instance, is on the United Nations list.

There are about 500,000 amateur radio operators in the world, with approximately 300,000 in the U.S. and about 15,000 in Canada, Mr. Blake said.

Although anyone is allowed to scan amateur radio channels, one must have a licence to transmit. One of the club's functions is to help people get their licence, called the amateur radio operators certificate. The licence is given by the federal Ministry of Transportation and Communications and carries a $25 fee. Those who qualify are given a call sign — such as the club's, which is VE3NCT — which they must renew each year.

"Our membership is open to all faculty or students who wish to join. We want to promote the club and get people involved with the hobby," he said.

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Editorials

Rights violated

Bring back smoking areas

Bring back the designated smoking areas.

Many complaints from non-smokers, who are forced to enter the school through entranceways filled with harmful toxins and noxious fumes — those left behind by delinquent people who don't obey the no-smoking signs they are reading as they smoke — has generated much controversy over the school's smoke free policy.

The College Council is considering a few ideas to alleviate this problem. Unfortunately, it is likely the council will fail, the same way it failed to acknowledge that smokers have rights too.

If in Canada — a so called "free" country — buying cigarettes is legal, why is it illegal to smoke inside the college? One can even be fined $500 for smoking in a dictated designated no-smoking area.

What is a designated no-smoking area? Since all public places are covered under the countless bylaws cities and towns put out each year, posting "smoking allowed" signs in the few places left in which smokers can still smoke would save a great deal of money. Printing all those "no-smoking" signs one sees on almost every door, window, and wall must cost thousands of dollars.

Years ago, when designated smoking areas existed, non-smokers could avoid them and not have to breathe second-hand smoke, but that wasn't good enough for non-smokers. They kept pushing the issue until smoking areas were banned, and smokers were forced outside like unwanted creatures.

Smokers, however, rebelled.

The outcome of all the non-smokers' constant, albeit justified, complaining was the formation of hundreds of illegal little smoking areas throughout the college that the non-smokers can no longer avoid.

The answer is simple — bring back designated smoking areas for smokers, and non-smokers — stay away from them.

Vernon Browne

What will happen to Canada?

As the Middle East war continues, certain problems in Canada are getting worse.

The country is in the middle of a recession, while many people in Quebec are pushing for separation from the rest of us.

The longer Canada stays in the Persian Gulf war, the more money goes toward the war effort, diverting funds from programs that need more money.

Sure certain sectors of the economy are doing better because some companies are supplying war materials, but what happens after the war? Will the economy decline once more?

Perhaps even after the war ends, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney will ask Parliament for more money for our armed forces. After all, we must have military forces and equipment at the same technological level as those of our allies, just in case another Saddam Hussein comes forward.

What happens to Canada if Quebec decides to secede? Will our country fall apart, or will the rest of the provinces band together in some new form of unity? Without question, Quebec's secession will affect Canada's economy. Perhaps that's exactly what those who are calling for secession are trying to do, ruin the economy and Canada at the same time.

What happens to the federal institutions and lands? Does Quebec take things the Canadian government has built over the years with our money?

What happens to the natives in Quebec? Must they leave Quebec and give their lands to the new government, or do they form their own separate country?

Canada is experiencing some of its worst problems in its 123-year history. We as Canadians should stick together and try making this country a better place to live.

Dave Johnson

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Letters to the Editor

Woman not flattered

Dear Editor:

As one of the "harassed" women who now thinks twice before venturing forth to the mini-cafeteria for a cup of coffee, I wish to respond to those readers who seem to believe that "I am flattering myself" and that I should get to know those "perverted tongues" for who they really are. (Niagara News, Vol. 21, No. 9, Jan. 25, 1991)

I can assure you, being taunted about one's body and asked questions regarding my state of dress under my clothes is not flattering! People-watching is an age-old sport and a social one which I too recognize as an enjoyable one.

"Clothes stripping eyeballs" have also been with us for centuries but this has been recognized as an anti-social sport enjoyed by the crude and those lacking moral values, whether they be male or female.

I ask you, why would I want to get to know these people for who they really are? I believe they have already adequately revealed themselves.

I agree that many of the people sitting near the mini-cafeteria are there because it is a convenient area to sit with friends. I hope they can continue to meet there to share a cup of coffee, meet new friends and exchange ideas, not leers.

Name withheld.

Fashionable salute

Dear Editor:

I am writing re: Focus page 5 of your last edition Creative Fashions on Parade.

A big "thank you" to Vernon Browne. He exhibited fine journalism skills and enthusiasm in portraying the co-ordinated efforts from the various departments within the college to present this fund-raising event.

He did an excellent job. We were very pleased with the end result.

Thank you for your support.

Sue Tallon
Development Officer
Continuing Education Division

Bullpit

Join the idea team

By DAVE JOHNSON
Staff Writer

In the last edition of the Niagara News, there were two Letters to the Editor published from individuals stating their disappointment with the paper.

There was also a telephone call concerning the Roving Reporter and the use of three of five students interviewed from the Law and Security program.

We at the paper strive to put out the best product possible. When it comes to something like the Roving Reporter, the interviewer asks whomever they can find and whomever will answer the question. We meet many who refuse to answer our questions. If you feel your program isn't getting enough attention then answer our questions and stop criticizing without being constructive. Or, answer our questions and get publicity for your program in our paper.

Everyone is entitled to their opinion, as long as it's constructive.

I would like to see any research done as to how we could improve the readership of the Niagara News. People are always offering opinions on how to change the News. If you think you know what you're talking about, please come forward with your ideas. It's always easy to criticize something when you're on the outside looking in. Unfortunately, most of our readers have little understanding of the restrictions and constraints of our program.

Perhaps those people who criticize us should go out and try interviewing unco-operative people or people who refuse to talk with us. It's far easier to criticize than to actually do it.

We want criticism, but only if it's constructive and will make for a more interesting and readable paper.

We welcome more Letters to the Editor. It is an opportunity for our readers to tell us what they like or don't like.

But regrettably, some of the criticism we hear is just "plain bitching."

Dear Editor:

The Gulf

It was only a few weeks ago,
When the world seemed more secure.
But with this military conflict,
Our thoughts are not so pure.

We often judge Saddam Hussein,
We say the man has gone insane.
He's destroying our world's precious waters,
By pumping oil and killing others.

He doesn't even seem to care,
As others destroy the land by air.
The missile is launched, down goes a flyer,
The total of deaths keeps getting higher.

Men and women across the nations,
Have joined to end his domination.
For if we had a ruler such as he,
Who knows how our world would be.

To those away in dessert storm,
I wish you luck while others mourn.
The loss of friends and loved ones too,
But we are safe because of you.

Thank you.

Linda Grondin
Early Childhood
Education student

Editor's Note: These are her comments concerning the Persian Gulf War. She decided to put her feelings in the form of a poem.

Focus

Teacher tries to slay Persian Gulf war monster

By JENNIFER BARTKIW
Staff Writer

Children throughout the world are trying to make sense of the Persian Gulf war. Parents and teachers are finding themselves in a position of having to teach children about death and destruction: better known as war.

Today was just another day at school for the five- and six-year-old children in the French Immersion class at the Early Childhood Education Centre at Niagara College.

But today is not an average day: today the teacher will read a story about war and bombs.

Lucille Kelly, early childhood education teacher, told nine children who were gathered in a circle for the story, "I want to talk to you about something very important that has been happening in the newspaper and on the television in other countries."

Mrs. Kelly asked the class what they thought it could be. A girl replied, "War."

"Yes, there's lots and lots of talk about the war," Mrs. Kelly said.

A boy quickly cut into the conversation and said, "My mom tried to explain it to me . . . bombs, knives, swords. This guy he's crazy and he's trying to get over here with bombs."

Mrs. Kelly quietly listened and allowed the children to speak about their feelings on war. "I found a book about what's happening about the war in the other country and it's called Planting Seeds," Mrs. Kelly said.

Explaining the war from a child's perspective, Early Childhood Education instructor Lucille Kelly (right) shows Daniel, 5, (left) and Jennifer, 5, a book about war called "Planting Seeds." After reading the book, Mrs. Kelly encouraged the children to express their feelings on the Persian Gulf war.

Photo by Jennifer Bartkiw

READING ABOUT WAR

The book is written from a child's perspective and tells the story of a young girl who is trying to understand war and bombs. "Why do people make bombs?" the girl asks her mother. "To stop other people from taking things away from them" her mother replies.

Mrs. Kelly directed the class' attention to a globe and proceeded to show the youngsters the distance between Canada and Iraq.

"I'm going to show you where we live," Mrs. Kelly said.

Then a boy interrupted, "And where the war is."

By this time several youngsters in class began to echo each other, "Where's the war?"

"The war is way across the ocean, all the way around (the globe) to another country. It's very tiny and it's called Iraq," Mrs. Kelly said.

"The war is happening all around Iraq because this fellow (Saddam Hussein) wants to come over and take a piece of another country called Kuwait. All the little countries around are upset because it's not nice to take things away from other people especially without asking," Mrs. Kelly said.

That's (Iraq) a long way from where we (Canada) are but we still have to think about it," Mrs. Kelly said.

A boy spoke up, "They can fly airplanes across the lake and put bombs on us. My dad said, 'the war could come to Canada.' " Another boy responded, "It's in the States (U.S.) too."

"Well it's way over in Iraq — way across the ocean. Hopefully they will settle things over there so it won't affect us over here in Canada," Mrs. Kelly said.

Mrs. Kelly returned to the book and started to read. "I guess it's like when my brother wants to share my toys and I don't let him. My mom says it's better to talk about it than to hit each other. My mom says that the countries have to learn to talk to each other too."

"So instead of throwing bombs back and forth, the countries have to learn to talk and use their words," Mrs. Kelly said.

"I don't know why they had to invent the bomb. I wish I could go back in time and uninvent it . . . I guess after something has been done we can't go back and change it," Mrs. Kelly read.

GETTING HURT

"They have already started war over there but hopefully things will change," Mrs. Kelly said.

Mrs. Kelly continued to read, "...When I first found the puppy he tried to bite me when I tried to pat him. He looked like he was afraid and thought I was going to hurt him. My mom says sometimes people are like that too. They hurt each other because they are afraid."

"That's what's happening in this country Iraq. Some people are getting hurt but they really don't mean it," Mrs. Kelly said.

"I saw pictures of kids in the newspaper who don't have enough to eat . . . If we all wanted to take care of each other we would grow more food instead of building bombs," Mrs. Kelly read.

"I am growing green beans in my garden for a science project and I planted lots of seeds . . . I want to sell them and send all the money to buy food for kids who don't have enough to eat."

Mrs. Kelly turned the page. "Last night in a dream I saw lots of hands holding the earth and a voice said we won't let everything die. I still don't understand about bombs very well but I do understand about planting seeds and taking care of each other and talking to my brother when I get mad. When I get scared about the bomb I think about the hands holding the earth."

STAYING TOGETHER

"We want to keep everything together, keep the world together and keep the countries together — happy," Mrs. Kelly said.

Mrs. Kelly asked the children how they thought the little children in Iraq feel.

All the children seemed to respond at once, "Sad."

Mrs. Kelly questioned the students on how Canada could help the people in Iraq who were sick and starving.

A girl raised her hand, "Send them some money."

A boy answered, "Give them some food." Another girl said, "Send them medicine."

Mrs. Kelly admits "a few of the children have been asking questions (about the war). Either they have seen it through the media or their parents have been talking about it and the children have picked up on their conversations."

"They have been talking about bombs and missiles. The kids are really curious about where this (the war) is happening. That's why I thought it would be a good idea to bring the globe in," Mrs. Kelly said.

"I think it's the teachers' and parents' responsibility to talk about the war. The kids are talking about it and I feel I should be able to answer some of their questions here (at school) as well."

This is the first time they have experienced war or anything like it, Mrs. Kelly said.

War's effect on youngsters

Concerned people help children cope with anxiety

By JENNIFER BARTKIW
Staff Writer

Many people are feeling the affects of the Persian Gulf war. Among those particularly feeling the anxiety of the war are young children.

In an effort to help young children better deal with the war, a recent seminar was held in St. Catharines. Sponsored by Niagara Children's Services and the Day Nursery Sector, the meeting involved more than 105 people, including teachers, students and parents.

Niagara College was represented by five Early Childhood Education teachers, 39 second-year Early Childhood Education students and by Allison Soave, co-ordinator of the Early Childhood Education program at the college, who served as one of five panelists.

The panel discussed a wide variety of topics ranging from cognitive limitations in understanding war, children's understanding of conflict, ethnic and family perspectives and parental support.

The meeting was held at the Niagara Region Headquarters building on St. David's Road, St. Catharines Jan. 28.

The five panelists came from different organizations and institutions in the Niagara Region including Margret Jordan, Lincoln County Public School Board; Zopito Marini, Brock University; Penny Pomeroy, Children's Services Committee; Fran Owen, Niagara Child Development Centre and Mrs. Soave from Niagara College. The moderator was Linda Rose-Krasnor of Brock University.

"The idea for tonight's program evolved rather suddenly — a little over a week ago — at a meeting of the Day Nursery Sector and Niagara Children's Services Committee," Ms. Rose-Krasnor said. "We were talking and we realized we shared a concern that the children of Niagara would be affected by the war in the Gulf in a variety of ways."

CHILDREN'S CONCERNS

The concerns among young children come out in a number of different ways, she said.

Questions children are asking teachers and parents are often hard to answer, she said. Why do we have a war? When is it going to end? Do children die in the war? Do bombs hurt because they are pointy? Can the bombs get to us (in Canada)?

Children have anxiety because of misunderstandings about their own personal safety, accurate understandings about the effects of war, imagery of casualties on television and imagery of gas masks being worn by children, Ms. Rose-Krasnor said.

"Children have been taught all their lives that fighting is bad; now all of a sudden it's good," Ms. Rose-Krasnor said. "Children look at the war and think it's a lot like adults playing Nintendo."

None of the panelists claim to be experts on children's reaction to war. The session was an opportunity to discuss issues through the exchange of information in order to find helpful approaches to the problem, she said.

"Young children will often shut

See CONCERNED on page 12

Pro-life, pro-choice agree — Bill C-43 not good

By KAREN GIBSON
Staff Writer

Pro-life and pro-choice groups agree about one thing — the defeat of Bill C-43, the federal government's proposed abortion bill.

The 43-43 Senate vote defeated the abortion bill Jan. 31, three years after the Supreme Court of Canada struck down the 1969 abortion bill.

In St. Catharines, both sides of the abortion controversy claim victory over the defeat of the bill.

Cindi LoForti, president of Campaign Life Niagara, was happy to see the defeat of Bill C-43.

"We worked very hard to defeat this bill," she said. "Our next step is to continue to press parliament to pass legislation for real protection of the unborn. We will also step up efforts to elect pro-life men and women."

Mrs. LoForti said most people are against abortion. "Where are all the supposedly majority of people who are pro-choice?" she asked. "We have been in operation for three years and have taken a lot of calls from women suffering emotionally from abortions."

Bert Pynenburg is president of St. Catharines Right to Life Association which represents 800 families.

"The group is not a political organization," Mr. Pynenburg said. "Our object is to teach people in general about abortion.

"It is good the bill was defeated. We feel parliament will come up with a new bill to protect the preborn. Until then, we will continue to write our members of parliament and educate the public through meetings."

Karen Moncur, a local representative of the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League, expected the worst regarding the Senate vote.

"I knew it would be close," Ms. Moncur said. "I'm thrilled and excited that the bill was defeated. I'm happy the issue will be laid to rest for a good long while."

Ms. Moncur said she will focus on access to abortion. "We will turn to ensuring all women across the country have equal access to abortion."

In reference to pro-life groups who are also happy the bill was defeated, Ms. Moncur said, "They've shot themselves in the foot. They should have worked to pass the bill and then amended it. This bill was very liberal and it didn't pass. It is unlikely that any other bill will pass."

Ms. Moncur does not believe the Niagara Region will see an abortion clinic in the future. "I don't foresee any need here in Niagara," she said.

Life in St. Catharines has remained the same for pro-life people who picket the St. Catharines General Hospital.

Jerry VanRuyven has picketed in front of the hospital with his stop abortion sign Saturday mornings for the past five years.

"There are usually six to eight of us who picket from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. every Saturday," Mr. VanRuyven said. "The defeat of the bill makes no difference to me. I will still be here Saturday mornings."

Nancy Winslow, who has picketed for two years, was glad the bill was defeated.

"It leaves room for a new law," she said. "People forget it's a matter of choice to kill or not to kill. Nothing is added after conception; the new baby or fetus is still a new human being."

Pro-life supporters, Claudia Carlsen (left), Jerry VanRuyven and Nancy Wilson, protest abortions by picketing in front of St. Catharines General Hospital Saturday morning.
Photo by Karen Gibson

Provinces decide abortion issue

The defeat of the federal government's proposed abortion bill last week by the Senate has left the abortion issue up to the provinces. Access to abortions depends on where you live.

Ontario — Abortion will be treated as a health service and paid for by the government. Freestanding abortion clinics will be set up and doctors recruited to work in them.

Prince Edward Island — No doctors or hospitals are willing to perform abortions. P.E.I. hospital boards decide what services are offered.

Newfoundland — Abortions are readily available only in St. John's where Dr. Henry Morgentaler opened a clinic last year.

Nova Scotia — A 1989 law states that abortions can only be performed in a recognized hospital. Dr. Morgentaler's Halifax abortion clinic is open despite his being charged by the province.

New Brunswick — A woman must get the permission of two doctors before an abortion will be granted.

Quebec — Abortion has been accessible and paid for by the government since 1976. There will be no change.

British Columbia — Previously, the province has unsuccessfully tried to control abortion by not paying under medicare. The government now pays for abortions in hospitals and freestanding abortion clinics.

Saskatchewan — Payments for abortions have previously been restricted to life-threatening situations.

Manitoba — Hospital abortions have previously been paid for by the government.

Alberta — Abortions have previously been performed in hospitals and paid for by the government after the consent of three doctors.

Yukon and Northwest Territories — Abortions are paid for by medicare.

International scholarship shows college commitment

By ROBERT FINLAY
Staff Writer

A student scholarship which may help Niagara College build its reputation as an international education centre has been unveiled.

A planning committee, chaired by English instructor Jennie Griffiths, has been formed to complete the final form of the scholarship and to raise funds. "It's hard to know if it will go through," Foster Zanutto, director of marketing at Niagara College, said. "It's hard to raise money for this kind of thing. We should get support within the college."

If successful, the international student scholarship program will provide funds for a selected applicant from any country in the world who has the academic ability to succeed and lacks funding from any other organization to attend school.

"It's a first for Niagara; we've never had anything like this before," Dennis Malone, director of English and Articulation, said.

Funds are being raised from Niagara College employees and private businesses in the area. They will be deposited in a special Niagara College Foundation account, earmarked for programs such as this one.

"All international students pay the full tuition for their education," Mr.Malone said. "The average rate they would pay is $6,200. Combined with accommodation and living expenses, you're easily into $12,000 a year."

The program is designed to benefit not only the individual student, but the college as well, he said.

"There's a dual purpose: to help the student and to raise the awareness of international education at Niagara. It will have limited impact, but still demonstrates the college's commitment to international education."

Mr. Malone said much of the credit for the programs rests with members of the committee creating the scholarship: Jennie Griffiths, English instructor; Hugo Bessems, internatioal student advisor; Valerie Grabove, coordinator, early childhoood education; Gary Webb, English development co-ordinator; Gaylene Levesque, English as a Second Language instructor; Foster Zanutto, director of marketing, and Marti Jumain, operational co-ordinator, English department.

Some of the students attending Niagara College are from such countries as Italy, Poland, Hong Kong, Libya, Iran and Nigeria.

"It's a positive step to provide funds to help students come to Canada and especially Niagara," Mr. Zanutto said."Now that we're approaching our 25th anniversary, it's a good idea to reach outside our boundaries."

Defeat of Bill C-43 marks 'milestone'

By KAREN GIBSON
Staff Writer

Sixty-two years ago women legally became persons; 63 years ago women became eligible to vote and 23 years ago women could legally use birth control.

The defeat of Bill C-43, the federal government's proposed abortion law, keeps abortion out of the Criminal Code. This decision marks another milestone for women's historical progress.

The decision whether or not to have an abortion rests where it should — with the woman and her doctor.

She alone must deal with the physical and emotional reality of being pregnant. No one can experience this for her — no matter how hard they try. Supporters and non-supporters are merely bystanders.

Three years ago the Supreme Court of Canada ruled it unconstitutional to force a woman to carry a fetus to term. Yet, people insist on forcing their opinions on others using threats of criminal sanctions.

These threats didn't work. Two men tried unsuccessfully to stop their girlfriends from obtaining abortions. Barbara Dodd in Ontario and Chantal Daigle in Quebec had abortions despite the law, or the lack of the law.

Recriminalization of abortion would open the door for more ethical questions and qualifying moral judgments.

If abortion was illegal, a woman who had an abortion would have committed murder. What punishment would be appropriate — life imprisonment, 20 years in jail, one or two years?

How would the law be enforced and who would pay the extra cost? Can our crowded court system handle all the cases that are guaranteed to appear? Do the jails have the capacity to hold these criminals?

Would a woman who miscarried be convicted of manslaughter if she was found guilty of taking aspirin or of not eating the right foods?

It is not too farfetched to think if the government has the right to govern a woman's reproductive ability now, it may also have the right to govern further when deemed necessary. Remember, 63 years ago, it was farfetched to think a woman should be allowed to vote.

If one can put aside the bickering and clear the mind of moral cobwebs, reality is plain to see. When all the words have been spoken and all the restrictions have been applied, a woman who wants an abortion will get one — any way she can.

Comment

Entertainment

Flight of the Intruder doesn't get off the ground

By RICHARD DOUGLAS
Staff Writer

You've got to hand it to John Mulius, he sticks to his guns.

In an era that was supposed to be kinder and gentler, Mr. Mulius has refused to mellow. While other directors such as Steven Spielberg were making heavenly romances (Always), Mr. Mulius continued with such right-wing jingoistic diatribes as Red Dawn and Farewell to the King. With a history of Hollywood violence — he penned Magnum Force's 30 plus killings — and nihilistic nonsense — he directed Conan the Barbarian — as well as militaristic rhetoric — he co-wrote Apocalypse Now — Mr. Mulius must have known his particular brand of macho flag-waving moviemaking would someday come into vogue.

So, it can be supposed the sudden release of Flight of the Intruder during the problems in the Persian Gulf is not merely coincidence. Intended as a summer release last year, Intruder was suddenly yanked from Paramount's schedule only to show up, somewhat miraculously, now. Not since the China's Syndrome's release during the Three Mile Island crisis has a film's release been so topical.

Based on Steven Coonts' novel, Intruder centres on Lieutenant Jake Grafton (Brad Johnson), a navy flyer stationed on an aircraft carrier off the Vietnamese coast. Lt. Grafton is an A-6 Intruder pilot tired of running bombing missions that prove fruitless. Orders from high command have pilots risking their lives to bomb useless patches of jungle or already destroyed targets. When Lt. Grafton's bombardier and best friend is killed on one of these missions, he begins to question the futility of his assignments and a war that seems unwinnable. To flesh out Lt. Grafton, Mr. Mulius has him quoting Tennyson and falling in love — in an unnecessary subplot — with a young war widow (Rosanna Arquette).

Lt. Grafton is soon teamed with a new bombardier, Virgil Cole (Willem Dafoe), and the two plan an unsanctioned air raid on a munitions dump in Hanoi. They take it upon themselves to win the war and thus encounter the wrath of the Navy and their stern, but caring, squadron leader (Danny Glover). Events unfold to allow for a heroic ending full of self-sacrifice, jungle action and male bonding.

Mr. Mulius is no stranger to this type of filmmaking. He makes few concessions to the audience — a wild flying sequence accompanied by rock music, a phoney love interest — but most of the time he sticks to what he knows best: daring actions scenes — marred by unconvincing special effects, the obligatory cathouse talk, barroom brawls and lots of macho attitude and dialogue.

'the most excitement you can have with your clothes on'

When Willem Dafoe's character first arrives on the aircraft carrier he looks fondly around the flight deck and says to another flyer, "I've been away awhile, I want to smell it." Flying is described as "the most excitement you can have with your clothes on" and a night on the town as consisting of "cold beer and hot women."

Trapped in this macho world Brad Johnson tries to be the heroic, yet strangely angelic figure the film demands. On the physical side he had no problem. Every pilot should be able to wear his mirrored sunglasses with such authority. Yet, dramatically he seems to have lost some of the natural assuredness he displayed in last year's Always. His performance, though credible, lacks the passion and depth the role demands.

Mr. Dafoe, on the other hand, delivers a little too well. His Virgil Cole is a mystery man with a dark legend surrounding him. As a bombardier on his third tour of duty, Mr. Dafoe invests Bombardier Cole with a razor sharp personality. He's a hard bitten cynic — we know this because he's the only one wearing a black helmet — who's seen it all twice and is quite possibly hooked on the action the war provides him.

Danny Glover as Commander Frank Camparelli, is not given much to do except yell at the men under his command. But this, we know, is because he cares. We know he cares because he conducts a seemingly endless number of memorial services for men killed in the line of duty and then says to Lt. Grafton, "we all miss (insert name of dead pilot), but he's gone. Let him go." Leaders like this do not grow on trees — except in war movies like this.

Rosanna Arquette — looking mousier than anybody has a right to — is subjected to the "girlfriend of the pilot role."

Flight of the Intruder is everything it was intended to be. It is a macho film about flyers who have a little more depth than the boys in Top Gun. But, in today's world climate, a film like this may seem to trivialize the horrors of an actual conflict. Watching Intruder is certainly easier than watching the news and that is perhaps its greatest weakness. Although Lt. Grafton and Bombardier Cole question the value of their missions, the rest of the world is questioning the need for such missions.

Sinners performance sets stage for murder

By JOAN GREAVES
Staff Writer

Senior citizens and high school students attended The Playhouse at Brock University Feb. 4 for an afternoon performance of Sinners, presented by The Muskoka Festival.

Sinners, written by Norm Foster and directed by Michael Ayoub, is a steady-paced two-act play, that has bawdy overtones, although set in a minister's home. It is a story of sex, murder and mistaken identities.

Michelle Hart played Monica Lloyd, the minister's wife and the town floozy, with a melodramatic flair and earthy delight that is aided by her wearing a skimpy teddy and robe for the entire play.

Her lover, Peter Kramer, played by David Nairn, is plagued by guilt for having an affair with a married woman — especially the minister's wife. He's a dumpy-looking widower, filled with paranoia and bad vibes.

Reverend Lloyd, played by Michael Pare who appears courtesy of Canadian Actors' Equity Association, ends up the target of confusion. The scrawny little man seems no match for his aggressive wife.

Diane Gillis, a woman whose husband is also having an affair with Monica Lloyd, is played by Glynis Davies. She's plain, uptight and definitely confused as to who really is Reverend Lloyd.

Police Chief Roy Cavanaugh and his wife Carolyn, played by Ted Follows and Araby Lockhart respectively, steal the second act. Carolyn is an overly enthusiastic busybody. Roy, relatively tolerant of his nosy wife, has a secret accidentally uncovered by Peter Kramer during the murder investigation.

The blue satin sheets added definite sexual overtones to the play, and were in stark contrast with the homey but conservative set.

The dramatic lighting, especially during the pre-murder scenes, added to the melodramatic mood. Colored lighting was used effectively to maintain tension.

The bawdier bedroom — and living room — scenes evoked great response from the audience, young and old. Definitely a fun way to spend an afternoon.

Philadelphia bans Wiseman 'High School' documentary

By JOAN GREAVES
Staff Writer

Frederick Wiseman's documentary, "High School," has been banned in Philadelphia. Filmed in black and white, the 1968 movie follows students, teachers, guidance counsellors and parents around a high school in Philadelphia. It was shown in The Studio at Brock University Feb. 4 to an audience of 35.

The teachers are disenchanted, the students are oppressed, the parents are patronized, and the guidance counsellors are bullying, unsuccessful football coaches.

Respect for teachers is stressed throughout the film, along with the adherence of students to the rules of the regime.

Mr. Wiseman used no voice-overs in his documentary, which first appeared on the Public Broadcasting system in the United States. He concentrated on the individual being filmed, sometimes surreptitiously, to fill the screen with the necessary dialogue, expression and emotion to get the point of oppression across.

The sound is occasionally blurred, resulting in missed dialogue, however, the message still comes across.

Another of Mr. Wiseman's documentaries, "Primate," will be shown Feb. 11 in The Studio at Brock University, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Miracle movie Awakenings amazing, emotional journey

By TARA GRABELL
Staff Writer

Imagine existing in a body incapable of functioning — an inescapable trap for 20 years. Then one day, an eager, enthusiastic doctor arrives and offers freedom from that body.

That journey through darkness into light by means of one person's belief in miracles is the subject of the new movie, Awakenings.

Leonard Lowe (Robert De Niro) is the main character afflicted with encephalitis — commonly known as sleeping sickness. For years he had existed in a coma-like state, until Dr. Malcolm Sayers (Robin Williams) joined the Bainbridge Hospital staff in 1969 and discovered him among several other post-encephalitics left in a forgotten ward.

Despite opposition from the hospital's administration, Dr. Sayers embarks on an experimental mission with a new drug — L-DOPA — used to treat patients with Parkinson's disease. He administers L-DOPA to Leonard, in whom he has taken an interest.

Leonard "awakens" from his deep physical "sleep" and attempts to do something he hasn't been able to accomplish for so long — write him name. Dr. Sayers finds his thus in a dark room with crayon in hand.

A poignant moment occurs when Leonard greets his astonished mother and whispers "Mama" — the same word he whispered to her just prior to slipping into his comatose state two decades before.

The unique lighting and camera angles, used ingeniously by director Penny Marshall, created an otherworldly atmosphere to complement the miracle awakenings of the remaining patients. The careful choreography of the characters' actions — a mumbled word or waving hand — added to the magical eeriness of the moment.

The miracle of the awakenings lessens as the story continues to unfold, and over a period of time, L-DOPA loses its status of wonder drug.

Awakenings is worth viewing twice. It will appeal to older audiences who might remember the true story of Dr. Oliver Sacks, the eccentric neurologist responsible for the miraculous work he did with post-encephalitics in 1969.

Ms. Marshall, Mr. De Niro and Mr. Williams are a wonderful combination of talent that make this movie a must-see. Despite working under unfavorable conditions — the movie was filmed in a mental hospital during a heat wave — and against company resistance, the crew managed to produce a picture that epitomizes both anguish and triumph.

Open house demonstrations

The Hospitality and Tourism Centre in Niagara Falls, will be holding an open house for senior secondary school students Feb. 20.

The open house will feature demonstrations and activities for an expected crowd of about 500 students.

A lunch prepared by Culinary Skills students will be served as will other samples from the facility's kitchens.

The open house begins at 9:30 a.m. and runs until 11:30 a.m. when lunch will be served. Demonstrations will continue from noon until 2 p.m.

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College sets precedent with program

By CATHERINE DENISON
Staff Writer

Niagara College is becoming a trailblazer in North America in assisting students with learning disabilities.

Sandra Crux, part-time instructor at the Centre for Language Studies at the college, began a peer tutorial program last fall in co-operation with the Special Needs and English departments unparalleled in North America.

"Almost all post-secondary institutions — colleges and universities — offer some type of tutoring . . . but as far as I know, no other peer tutorial program trains quite this way . . . . We have a unique program at Niagara College," Dr. Crux said.

Dr. Crux's course, English 106, was designed primarily to teach students strategies for tutoring peers with reading, writing, listening and speaking difficulties and is based on her book, Learning Strategies for Adults, due to be published in March, 1991, by Wall & Emerson, Toronto.

Her course was initiated due to the support of Gary Webb, English development co-ordinator at the college, and the Special Needs Department, particularly Victoria Maugain, Dr. Crux said.

"Gary has been thinking about this for three years. This was his dream," she said.

Mr. Webb spoke with great enthusiasm about Dr. Crux's ground-breaking approach and said the college is very fortunate to have her on staff.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is the only other post-secondary institution in North America that offers a program similar to English 106, but it too differs in scope, Mr. Webb said.

"This type of course is normally offered at the graduate level," Dr. Crux said.

York University offers a course for first-year students with learning diabilities but it is theory-based and does not train people to match strategies with particular learning problems on a one-on-one basis, she said.

SON WAS MOTIVATION

Dr. Crux has worked in education for the past 20 years. She returned to Brock University in 1971 when her son and daughter were four and five years old to obtain her bachelor of arts and bachelor of education degrees.

Her son was diagnosed as learning disabled in kindergarten. He is now 25 and reads at a high school level, but "he still struggles", she said.

Like many people with learning disabilities, he has great difficulty with problem solving and abstract thinking. Her experience with her son's difficulties motivated her to work in the learning disabled field, she said.

Dr. Crux received her master of education degree from Brock University and her PhD from the Ontario Institute for Studies at the University of Toronto where she specialized in adult education and the social/psychological foundations.

She has taught at all levels from primary to graduate for various boards of education in the Niagara Region as well as in the undergraduate and graduate departments at Brock University's faculty of education.

Dr. Crux has published articles both nationally and internationally on adult education and human resource topics.

She has a private practice in Fonthill, serving clients with head injuries and learning disabilities.

"I am not a psychologist," she said. "I teach literacy related language skills so that they (my clients) can go to college or university . . . . Although I am not a psychologist, I have mixed my studies with curriculum and program development. I have enough psychology to do assessments and to look at them (my clients) from an educational point of view — what do they need to go to college or to do this job?"

Dr. Crux's clients are referred from business, industry, boards of education, post-secondary institutions, professional development groups, government-public agencies, and individuals.

Dr. Crux has had only one client who was unable to continue with a post-secondary education.

"(My client) had a very serious brain injury," she said. "I was unable to help because of the extent of the brain damage. I was able to help, but that person wasn't able to go on to higher education."

COMPENSATION STRATEGIES

Dr. Crux teaches her clients compensation strategies to bypass their disabilities.

"If a person has a learning disability, we need to find something outside the person to deal with the disability or within the person — a strength — and use that to an advantage," she said.

"I may have clients — survivors of brain injuries — who say they can't write. I show them how to use the computer and tape recorder, and they never have to put pen to paper."

Dr. Crux may help a secretary who can't spell by teaching her to use a mini hand-held computer that spells for her.

Compensating learning disabilities with computerized equipment is not always a simple matter, Dr. Crux said.

"Far too often, computers are stated as being the panacea for the learning disabled."

There are other facets that must be considered, Dr. Crux said. To use computers, students and clients must first be good at typing. Computers may have to be supplemented with tapes, earphones, and sequential organizers depending on the cognitive learning style of the disabled person. Often students and clients require one-on-one training on the computer, she said.

CLEAR STRATEGIES

Dr. Crux's book, Learning Strategies for Adults, provides clear strategies for the lay person to help those with learning disabilities.

"It took me years to collect the stuff," she said. "(My book) is a practical handbook. It tells you what you can do (to help the learning disabled)."

Dr. Crux wrote her book to fill a gap in available literature. Scholarly articles in psychology, education and the learning disabled fields — above the lay person's understanding — were all she could find, she said.

Dr. Crux's manuscript was used as a pilot project in the fall semester of English 106 and by Dr. Marion Walsh in the faculty of education at Brock University.

"I made all the revisions (to my book) on this basis," she said.

When speaking about her new course at the college, Dr. Crux said it is important to distinguish between the tutorial content model and the learning strategies tutorial model, on which English 106 is based.

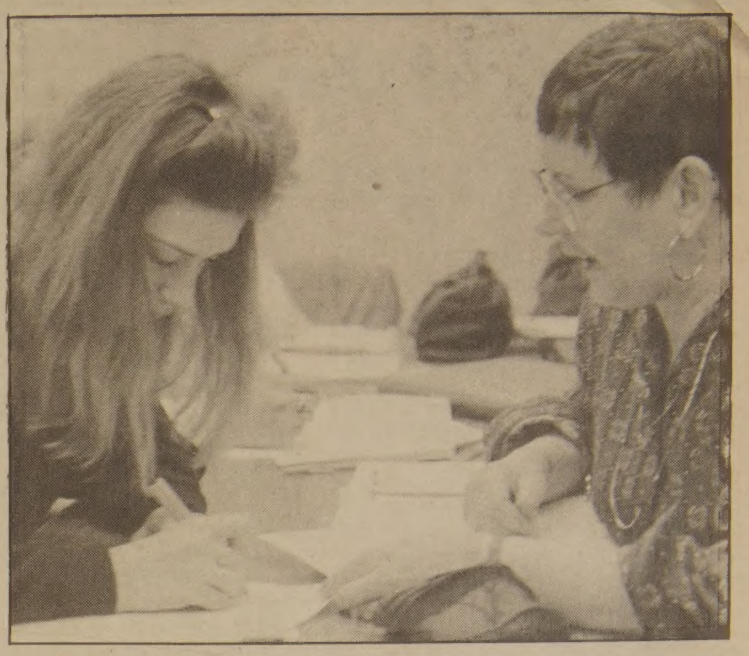
"No where, to the best of my knowledge, is anyone training tutors to do more than content tutoring," she said.

The objective of content tutoring is to enable students to learn specific content well enough to pass a specific course.

The learning strategies model at the college teaches students transferable skills which can be applied to all courses. It enables students to function independently to acquire, organize and retrieve information in post-secondary settings through the use of the following: memory strategies, time management strategies, note-taking strategies, reading fluency (accuracy) strategies, and reading comprehension and writing strategies, Dr. Crux said.

"The whole purpose of our course is related to the notion of 'English across the Curriculum' — to train tutors to work with anyone in any program."

An assessment of a student's cognitive learning style is necessary prior to tutoring. Persons with learning disabilities are either visual or auditory learners, Dr. Crux said.



Dr. Sandra Crux (right) part-time instructor with the college's Centre for Language Studies, explains strategies for peer tutoring learning disabled students to Angela Brown, second-year student in the Early Childhood Education program.
Photo by Catherine Denison

The key word for visual learners is simultaneous — they want to see the whole thing before they understand it.

Auditory learners, on the other hand, require lists and hierarchies of necessary tasks.

NEED TO EMPOWER

"I have a whole different way of looking at people with disabilities," she said. "Instead of putting them on welfare or disability allowance, we need to empower them — to teach them compensation strategy skills to get around their disability."

Dr. Crux helps auditory learners to write essays by teaching them to write one or two sentences on separate index cards. They combine sentences by adding more index cards and then tape these on a big chart on the wall behind the computer. They type the essay from the cards and then add an introduction and conclusion. This is called a cognitive learning strategy and it becomes a skill they can apply to other settings.

The process of helping the learning disabled is hit and miss unless it is based on a knowledge of the cognitive learning style and the capacity of a person's memory. This method has been used at the secondary level for a number of years but it is a new approach in adult education, Dr. Crux said.

Dr. Crux's course combines theory with practice in six steps. First, she explains the strategy, for example, note-taking. Secondly, the students model the strategy. Thirdly, the students practice the strategy. The fourth step allows for feedback and the fifth and sixth steps require more practice and the application of theory in a real situation.

Dr. Crux will have trained 50 students by the end of her first year at the college.

"I get students from across the board but the biggest number come from Educational Resources and Special Needs and Early Childhood students . . . . This credit looks great on a resume," she said.

Mr. Webb, English development co-ordinator, hopes future students with learning disabilities will integrate 10 hours of special instruction and academic support with 14 hours of post-secondary courses to make them full-time students at the college.

If the Administrative Officers Committee approves of the plan within the next month, the college will advertise for and recruit students with learning disabilities for the fall semester, he said.

There's more to teaching than ...

A professional development committee has been established to help college staff with their jobs.

"We want to make available to our staff opportunities for them to develop new skills and seek out new information about their careers," Beatrice Clark, member of the professional development committee, said.

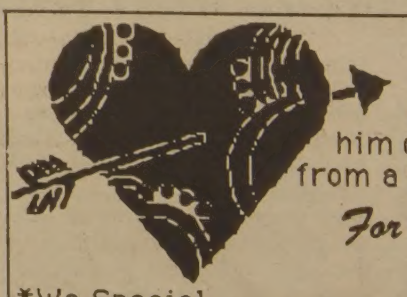
John Saso, college president, initiated the committee on his arrival last year, Mrs. Clark said. She and six others were elected to form the committee and create a new position of professional development co-ordinator to be named later in the year. The co-ordinator will be chosen from someone on staff, once the position is posted, she said.

The committee has already formed six sub-committees that will address the various concerns of the committee. Items of concern for three of the sub-committees include organizing recreational activities for staff, a recognition for contributions to both the school and community by staff members and a greater recognition of retiring employees.

The other three sub-committees will concentrate on faculty, administration and support staff development. A proposed two weeks of professional development in June could include activities to help employees in their job and in other areas.

"It might be something that is required because of a change in the job or it might be something that the person elects to involve themselves in," Mrs. Clark said.

Non-skill based improvements, such as stress management are also being considered for this development time. "That's not part of my job, but I need to know how to handle my own stress level in order to be effective here and on a personal level as well," she said.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French-Canadian day, quel plaisir

Royal beauties were on hand to open last Sunday's festivities, part of the Welland Winter Carnival, with a speech and a smile. Seated from left: Sonya Poulin, second princess and Winter Carnival Queen Monique Rocca. Standing from left: Julie Boilard, Miss Congeniality and Shannon Hill, first princess.

Photo by Tara Grabell

By TARA GRABELL
and JENNIFER BARTKIW
Staff Writers

Staff writers Tara Grabell and Jennifer Bartkiw spent a lovely Sunday afternoon at the annual Welland Winter Carnival. Here are their impressions of the day.

The mud sucked at our boots as we trudged along last Sunday towards the barn-like Club Richelieu on River Road in Welland. It was time to begin the wonderful festivities known as the French-Canadian Carnival Day, part of the annual Welland Winter Carnival continuing until Feb. 10.

Loud French-Canadian folk music assaulted our ears as we approached a closely-knit cluster of carnival-goers at the entrance — blocking our way to the pancake breakfast we so earnestly sought.

A crowd of young and elderly people alike, downing plates of pancakes buried beneath gallons of syrup and mounds of butter, greeted us. We hurried anxiously to the back to fork over money to fork up pancakes and down coffee.

After collecting our cooked dough-on-a-plate, we proceeded to stuff our mouths while seated in front of an ovenlike heater. Lifting our heads from the steaming plates before us, we saw a steady stream of politicians — among them Welland's Mayor Roland Hardy and Welland-Thorold MPP Peter Kormos — make speeches in a language we hadn't heard since Grade 9.

We journeyed outside into the windstorm to catch the first trip of the horse-drawn trailer. Unfortunately, the wind was not strong enough to blow away certain sinus clearing scents so delicately left behind in mounds on the road.

Before us on the trailer sat a kindergarten teacher's worst nightmare — about 30 children crawling over each other to get the best view of the empty countryside. Later, Bonhomme, that well-known snowman from Quebec, joined the eager children for a spin up and down the slush-covered road.

In the upper chamber of the club, we encountered more children, many with painted faces. We headed toward a table and pushed our way past tiny tots to see two artists creating Bart Simpson and Ninja Turtles on young skin.

After one broken ski and several failed attempts, the four-kids-on-a-ski contest saw many muddy faces that were originally intent on winning; now they were intent on escaping the mud puddles beneath them.

Bored with the antics of the children, we wanted to view the antics of the adults. We headed to the log-sawing and nail-driving contests. There was something about the log-sawing contest that brought out the men in droves. The race to prove their manhood was intense, but the women's arrival squelched their dreams of log-sawing being a masculine sport.

The day was not without royalty: a court of princesses with their queen frolicked with the "peasants" throughout the day's activities and managed to pose for photos whenever we happened to wander by.

With mud sucking at our boots, we reluctantly left, knowing a future carnival day was awaiting our eager enthusiasm.

No one wants employment?

Student turnout for the first graduate registration and checkpoint resume day yesterday was disappointing, said Janet Forfar, Career Services Officer.

Ms. Forfar and Judy Stankus of Career Services were in the Tecumseh lounge, at the Welland campus, to offer assistance with resume writing and to hand out and accept registrations and resumes for potential job opportunities.

"It has been slow," Ms. Forfar said. "We were hoping for more ... I'm concerned that students are not recognizing the need to get out there and look for jobs now .... We had expected more response .... We don't have resumes to send out .... We've had lots of students picking up information and we will be returning next week."

The next registration and resume day will be held Feb. 13 in the Tecumseh lounge from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Students who took advantage of the services offered yesterday expressed hope Career Services staff would help them find jobs.

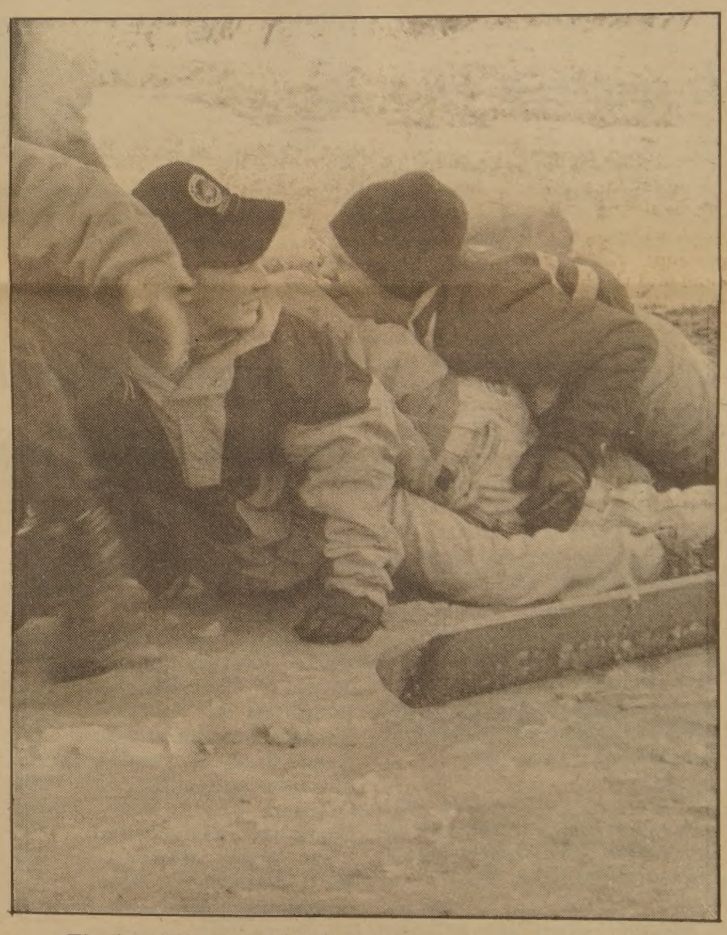
"I'm hoping that these people will have contacts I don't have," said Mike Cipryk, a fourth-year student in the Manufacturing and Engineering Technology program. "This is a good service since lots of employers come to them. I'm hoping for a job in the quality control field. I'm in a co-op course. I've worked for a couple of companies that have voiced an interest (in hiring me), but I'm not graduating at a good time economically."

Archie Kharazian is a second-year student in computer programming who hopes to get a job in a large company like EDS in Whitby, he said.

"I appreciate their services being offered right in the school," Mr. Kharazian said. "She (Janet Forfar) gives information in detail. She opens all doors and options."

John Franko, a fourth-year student in manufacturing and engineering technology, said he will start looking for a job on his own at the end of March, but meanwhile he hopes Career Services will help him find a job.

"I would like to find a job hopefully in Niagara but as long as they put me somewhere, I'll be happy," he said.



The four-kids-on-a-ski turned into a four-kid pile-up as the anxious competitors just missed the finish line. They were rewarded with muddy clothes and scraped knees for their efforts. Despite the lack of snow, participants enjoyed the challenge during French-Canadian Day.

Photo by Jennifer Bartkiw

Pancakes were brisk sellers as Renald Tasse, of Welland, poured the batter onto the grill faster than even Aunt Jemima could. Mounds of flapjacks were doled out to hungry carnival-goers last Sunday at the French-Canadian Carnival Day, held in Welland.

Photo by Jennifer Bartkiw

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Sports

Team 'consistency' pays off

By DAVE JOHNSON
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights volleyball team won two of three matches at a weekend tournament here, improving the team's record to seven wins and 10 losses.

The Knights played George Brown College in the first match. The first game saw the Knights win 15-13 after being down by a score of 5-11. "Brian McDonald and Vahid Amini played strong offensively to give the team the win," coach Ray Sarkis said.

Vahid Amini with eight kills (spikes), helped lead the Knights to win game two of the match 15-6. Shane Holland and Brian McDonald also helped the team to victory by making six and five kills respectively.

Holland and Amini were also the top blockers during the match by stopping three spike attempts of George Brown.

Game one of the second match against Redeemer College saw the Knights win easily 15-5. Strong offensive play by Amini and Holland again led the Knights to victory.

Redeemer gained the early lead in game two and the Knights had to fight back for control. The Knights came back to lead the game 11-10 but lost 12-15. Redeemer, the top team in Niagara's pool, won the third and final game of the match 15-5.

Vahid Amini led the offence with 13 kills, Shane Holland had 10 and Brian McDonald had eight. Sylvain Heroux and McDonald were the top blockers during the match with Redeemer.

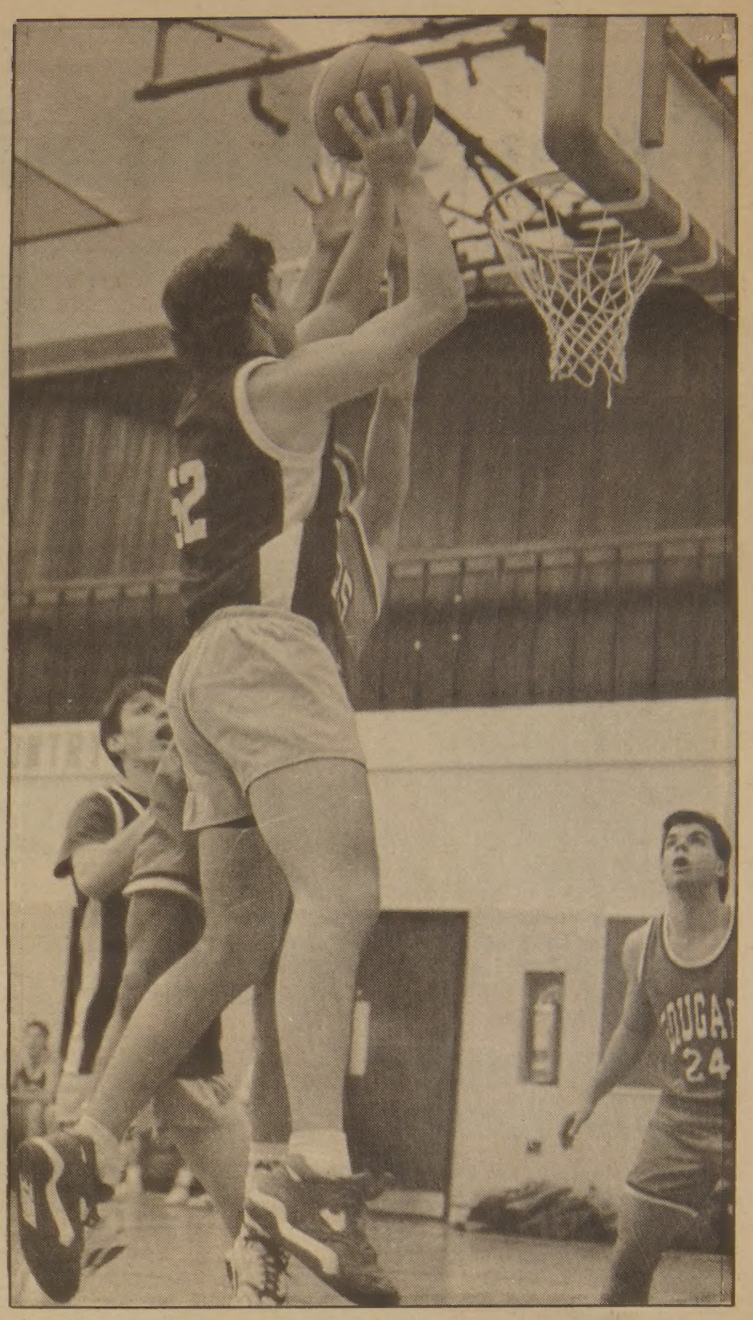
In the team's final match of the day, Niagara defeated Seneca College. Niagara needed to win the match to move ahead of Seneca in the standings. Both teams started out slowly during the first game, but Niagara moved ahead with the outstanding play of Shane Holland who made 23 kills enabling Niagara to win 15-13.

Niagara lost the second game 15-13 due to the fact that two players had gone out with injuries the previous match. The team went on to defeat Seneca in the final game 15-11.

"The team played well this weekend," coach Sarkis said. "There was consistency in the team's playing when it came to passing, blocking and setting. Mark Antolish worked extremely hard to set the ball to the hitters when our passing was off."

The Knights return to Ontario College Athletic Association play in Ottawa this weekend for its final tournament. The Knights face St. Lawrence College, Algonquin College and Sir Sanford Fleming.

Coach Sarkis also looked at 21 high school players this past Monday to see how many will come to Niagara next year and to see how they play.



Knights centre Rick Sinclair jumps high to make this shot against a Centennial High School defender. Welland defeated Centennial 86-67.

Photo by Neville Lewis

Hockey team wins 'tough game'

By NEVILLE LEWIS
Staff Writer

Despite five goals by Buffalo State's rightwinger Bill Nashwinter, Niagara Knights hockey team defeated Buffalo State 8-7 Saturday night at the Welland Arena.

Buffalo State's Dan Goldie scored the game's first goal, less than four minutes into the game, and scored six minutes later to put the visitors ahead 2-1. The Knights, however, took a 3-2 lead after the first period with goals by Lance Parcher and Rob Scriven.

Going into the second period, Nashwinter became the Buffalo State's offence, scoring the first of his five goals 51 seconds into the period by slapping the puck into the Niagara net behind goalie John Bacik.

Bacik was playing his first game after being out of the lineup because of a separated shoulder. His mid-November injury saw Mike Ticknovich replacing him and Gerry Ellison performing as the team's back-up goaltender.

Bacik played an impressive role in blocking most of Buffalo State's 50 shots on goal.

Nashwinter scored his second goal with assists going to Dan Goldie and Thomas Thornton. His three remaining goals were scored in the third period.

"It feels good to score five goals but it would have been nicer to win," Nashwinter said. He had a similar five-goal performance in a game in Minnesota, but Saturday's five-goal performance was his first in an International Collegiate Hockey League game.

Despite his team's loss, however, Nashwinter was pleased to get five goals against the Knights. "It's nice doing it (scoring) against Niagara," he said, "because they're a big rival. It's usually a pretty good game (when Buffalo State plays Niagara). Physically, Conestoga (Conestoga College from Kitchener) and Niagara are generally tough."

And a tough game it was. During the third period, Buffalo State's goalie Jeff Walkowiak fought with Niagara's Dave Hall. Hall received two penalties: five minutes for charging and five minutes for fighting. After receiving a similar fighting penalty in a game two weeks ago, Hall must sit out the team's next three games. His next game will come during the playoffs.

On the Buffalo State side, Mike Masocco received a 10-minute penalty and a general game misconduct. He will be out of the Buffalo State lineup for three games for the abuse of an official.

Veterans made the difference for Niagara in this game. Dan Reutz scored Niagara's sixth and seventh goals with assists from veterans Lance Parcher and James Ward. In the game, Ward had two assists, Parcher one goal and three assists, while Reutz had one assist. The home team's opening goal came from Kent Loach who added another in the second period to tie the game at 4-4.

Playing in their first year with the Knights, Rob Hoath had two goals and two assists, while Rob Scriven had one goal and two assists. Hoath's second goal, the game's final goal, gave Niagara its second consecutive win.

Niagara's record is five wins, four losses and two ties, putting the team in third place in the six-team division.

Niagara's next game is Saturday at the Welland Arena against Erie Community College of Buffalo, beginning at 8 p.m.

Niagara's basketball team wins exhibition game

The Niagara Knights basketball team continued its winning ways last week with an exhibition victory over Welland Centennial High School 86-67.

Niagara's coach Todd Stevens started with the team's regular lineup of Cam Bell and Merv Wrighton at forward, Rick Sinclair at centre, and Scott Currie and Brady Fitzgerald at guard, but later subsituted with John Olavson, Jason Bray, Blaine Spark and Roland Miron.

The move, however, did not stop Rick and Scott from dominating the scoring. Rick led all scores with 21 points. Scott had 16 points, while Roland had 15 points and Merv had 13 points.

For Centennial High School, Rich Wright scored 19 points, while John Clesco had 15 points and Aaron Kleinsmith had 14 points.

Centennial High School trailed Niagara throughout the game. At halftime Niagara led 39-33.

Niagara led 65-50 going into the fourth quarter and finished the game with a nineteen-point win.

Safety seminar explains bill

Occupational health and safety was the focus of a day-long seminar at the college's Welland campus Feb. 2. Over 50 participants from the Niagara region had the amendments to Bill 208 demystified during seminars.

Opening addresses were given by Gabe MacNally, president of St. Catharines and District Labour Council, and Ken Rogers of the Workers Health and Safety Centre.

Don McMillan, a representative of the Workers Health and Safety Centre in Hamilton, spent most of the day explaining the legal terminology of the legislation, joint health and safety committees and the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System.

"It's difficult to keep up-to-date with the amendments Bill 208 created," said Mr. McMillan.

NIAGARA NEWS
Your best news source

Club offers safety course, tests for snowmobile licence

The Niagara District Snowmobile Clubs Association is offering a snowmobile safety training course Feb. 16 to licence snowmobilers Rick Kavanagh, club president, said.

The six-hour course will cover all safety features and safe handling of a snowmobile and minor maintenance.

Those passing the final exam will receive an Ontario Ministry of Transportation snowmobile operator's licence and an Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs' patch, he said.

In Ontario, people aged 12 to 16 years cannot operate a snowmobile without this licence, Mr. Kavanagh said. Those over 16 must have a valid driver's licence or a snowmobile licence to operate a snowmobile.

The training is to provide snowmobilers with a sense of safety about riding, he said.

"We want people to know more about snowmobiles than what they would learn from a (snowmobile) dealer," he said.

The course will be held at the Fenwick Lion's Club, Centennial Park and will cost $15.50. Programs are available for adults and children.

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Look-alike team twinned for life

By NEVILLE LEWIS
Staff Writer

Imagine doing everything, sharing everything all your life with a brother or a sister. Most people frown at the mere thought. Others ask, "Are you out of your mind?"

Then picture your brother going wherever you go. Memories of those days when you took your sibling with you must bring some old anger. Not so if you are Paul Sereda — or Peter Sereda. It is simply not so if you are twins.

After 18 years, Paul and Peter have yet to grow tired of each other. The first-year broadcasting, radio and television students from Brantford, Ont. said it is fun but there are advantages and disadvantages.

"It is very weird to see brothers and sisters hanging out with each other. Peter and I always do," Paul said. A close look at Peter and Paul identifies them as brothers although not twins. Paul appears a little older. In fact, he is older by 10 minutes. "I wanted some elbow room," he said laughingly as he explained his earlier birth.

"I'd say we're a team," younger looking Peter added. Both blue-eyed, brown-haired men are unmistakable around the Niagara College Welland campus. Usually dressed in sweatshirts, T-shirts and ripped jeans they are highly conspicuous in the hallways. If their attire does not make a statement, their long hair certainly stands out. Worn shoulder length and sometimes held behind a headband, the curled locks remain a blemish in their father's eye.

The men don't seek parental approval on what they wear. Instead, they are having fun in their choice of apparel.

"We're into skateboarding and we wear skateboarding clothes," a more jovial Paul said. "We have fun with clothes. We enjoy wearing new things," a more serious Peter chimed in.

"We would wear a suit and tie every day, if we could afford it," the elder twin said. "We love wearing street clothes. A lot of people think that we dress very cool," he continued indicating an oversized sweatshirt and ripped, baggy denim jeans. In his left ear, Peter sports two loop earrings. "But we're very plain and simple," Paul, similarly dressed, finished.

TELEPATHY AT WORK

It is amazing how one sibling begins a sentence and the other finishes it keeping the exact thought. The brothers view it as a form of telepathy.

"We won't see each other all day, but I'd say 'What song were you singing?' and we would find out we were singing the same song," Paul said.

Peter recalled Paul, on seeing one episode of The Cosby Show, asked him if he knew whom he thought was a good dancer. Peter answered, "Tempest Bledsoe" without seeing the show.

"Plain and simple, Peter and I know what the other is thinking of," Paul said.

Friends observe similar reactions in the twins. Having gone through high school — St. John's College in Brantford and now sharing an apartment with them, Frank Ricci and Aaron King, also college students, witness such behavior often.

They recount the story of when the twins were sitting across the room from them watching television one day and both men said they could not help noticing the similarity in facial expressions as the brothers peered at the screen. They even flinched at the same time.

Such occurrences aren't abnormal. When the twins were younger, it was very difficult to tell them apart. As they grew older, differences were more apparent. However, the joke 'Hey Peter and Paul where is Mary?' (of the singing group, Peter, Paul and Mary) persisted. The twins want to make it clear "the joke is now dead".

At Niagara College, people still have difficulty distinguishing the brothers. "If somebody says Peter, I look up. I'm so used to people calling me Peter," Paul said. Whereas some siblings may have used this asset to their advantage the twins do not. Peter remembered trying to get Paul to write an exam for him in high school, "but he wouldn't do it."

CALLED TO OFFICE

As the men reminisced about their high school days, Peter's usually innocent composure changed offering a few rare chuckles. The incident when Paul served a month's detention for having a survival knife still brings a few sighs.

Peter had bought the knife and kept it in his locker but Paul was sent to the principal's office. It was nothing new.

"Peter would get in trouble and I would end up being called to the office," Paul said.

Teachers as well as girls sometimes mistake them. "A lot of girls would like me and be interested in one (of us) and not the other," Paul added. It's 50-50 they agreed. They said they have never used their likeness to mislead girls.

There is no real sibling rivalry. Like all brothers they have their fights — once a year they said.

"We have one big fight and this includes everything," they chorused. A fight started as a result of one wanting to play the piano and the other having the same desire. "So we both started to fight," Paul said.

Their friends, at such instances, would let the duo have their go at it for the brothers have realized that blood is thicker than water. Soon it is back to the old routine of wearing each other's clothes and sharing everything. "We split

Twins Paul (left) and Peter Serada are often mistaken for each other. The twins were born 10 minutes apart.
Photo by Neville Lewis

on everything. It's a team," they said. It makes buying Christmas presents easier for their parents.

COMMON FEAR

As in other things they share, the twins have a common fear: separation. They do not foresee it happening presently since their plans are tied. To themselves, they are not outstanding as individuals.

"We're not really special without each other. Together people look at us, people see us. They see something unique," Paul said.

It is on this uniqueness their future clings. The twins said they wish to enter the entertainment industry.

"Right now we're thinking of what we may do as a team. We've thought of music," Peter said. They have written some tunes and recorded a demonstration tape. Their music reflects that of people they admire: The Beetles, Living Color, The Cult and Red Hot Chile Pepper.

The twins said they are now at a stop sign but they are positive whatever they do, it will be together. They are single and entertain no thoughts of marriage.

"We're going to be together for a long time," Paul said.

Time and circumstances will decide. Today, nothing will separate them. It marks 19 years of togetherness. Happy Birthday, Peter and Paul.

Editor's Note: The Sereda twins celebrated their birthday on Friday, Jan. 18.

Valentine history

By KAREN GIBSON
Staff Writer

Valentine's Day honors a man called Saint Valentine, but there were many men with this name. Stories of two men have survived over the years. Both Valentines were priests, and both were killed by the Emperor Claudius, who was nicknamed Claudius the cruel.

The first story tells how Emperor Claudius was angry at married men who wanted to stay home with their wives and children and refused to go to war. Claudius declared that no one could get married.

Valentine felt sorry for the young people who were in love, so he married them secretly. Claudius found out and sent Valentine to jail. He later had Valentine killed.

The second version tells how Valentine was sent to jail for preaching Christianity. The Romans worshipped many different gods and did not accept the new Christian religion.

While in jail, Valentine met the jailer's blind daughter and became fond of her because she brought him food and messages. Through prayers, Valentine restored her sight. Claudius was angered by Valentine's power and had him killed. Before Valentine died, he wrote a poem to the jailer's daughter and signed it from your Valentine.

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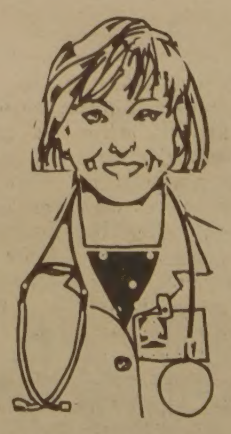

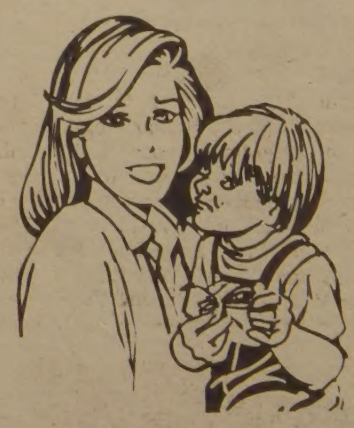

Cold but cheerful

Broadcasting students from left, Andy Mayer, Paul Daniels, and Sly Heroux force a laugh after diving into the icy waters of Lake Gibson during the college's Wintercourse polar bear dip, Wednesday.

Photo by Neville Lewis

Concerns about war

CONCERNED from page 5

out their thoughts by referencing with an important adult in their life," Ms. Jordan said in addressing the issue of cognitive limitations in understanding the war. "One thing they (children) will try to do is look to you for a reaction, what expressions you have on your face and how you have changed your routine."

WHAT DOES WAR MEAN?

The first question young children will ask is what does it (the war) mean to me?, she said.

"Nursery school children are particularly influenced by the pictures of young children they see in the media and by pictures of oil covered ducks because of their association with animals," Ms. Jordan said.

Children also have a problem separating reality from fantasy and newscasts from cartoons, she added. "Children don't know the difference between pretend death and real death," Ms. Jordan said.

"One of their major needs that should be satisfied is safety," Mr. Marini said in discussing children's understanding of the conflict. "It's a prime-time war; most of the major eruptions happen at supper time and it's very difficult to keep children away from looking at those pictures."

"It is very, very important to listen to the concerns of the children even though their (concerns) may seem insignificant," Mr. Marini said. "Listen to what they (children) are saying. Be honest. Be upfront."

Mrs. Pomeroy discussed the issue of ethnic and family perspectives and reminded teachers and parents to be aware of the stresses children are facing if they have immediate family involved in the war. "Children from different ethnic groups — Israeli, Iraqui and Kuwaiti — feel a real sense of extended family being over there."

There's too much stereotyping and it's resulting in a bad impression of Arabs, Mrs. Pomeroy said.

STRESS EFFECTS

The behavioral and stress effects on children were addressed by Ms. Jordan. Children will deal with stress in many different ways: heightened separation anxiety (don't want to leave parents), repression or pseudo-maturity, increased irritability (crying and anger) and sleep disorders (bad dreams), she said.

Ms. Owen talked about the importance of parental perceptions and support. "Parents are used to being able to protect their children," she said. "Adults should think about their own ways of coping with stress and anxiety, should talk to their children about their own beliefs and morals and should encourage their children to feel safe."

She said routines will become more important to help children feel safe. "Some people believe that children should be fully exposed to all information provided by the media. Other people try to keep their children from seeing television shows because they find their children get upset by it (newcasts)."

"It's a personal decision — you know your own child best," she said. "We need to work as a team with all the people caring for our children. Teachers can give parents helpful insights on how their child is dealing and reacting to the war."

"We must ensure that we give children all the love we usually do and more. We usually do and more. We must talk to them on a regular basis," Ms. Owen said. "Reassure physical safety and let children know that you are aware of their fears and are willing to support them."

Mrs. Soave spoke about staff support for teachers dealing with children on a regular basis.

"Kids look to the important adults, as a teacher they will look to you," Mrs. Soave said. "The kids will be looking at the way you're coping and functioning under pressure."

Children need three things from an Early Childhood educator: emotional support, let the children know you're there for them and care for them; to provide information, don't ignore it, instead deal with it, and provide an opportunity for children to express their feelings and ideas. Children need to tell you that they're afraid and they want to share with you some of the things they're learning, Mrs. Soave said.

Air quality

QUALITY from page 1

'em all. But not only do they pollute our air, they don't do much for college aesthetics. The first thing people see when they come to our school is a sign on the doors saying 'Welcome to our smoke-free college.' The next thing they see is a group of students and faculty just inside the doors smoking away. What does that say about Niagara College?

He suggested air testing be conducted during January or February, stating that while air testing was conducted in the past, it was during times when few students were on campus.

"A big concern of mine is about the air quality testing which was done back in 1983 and 1985," Mr. Taylor said. "The tests showed carbon dioxide levels to be higher than what was considered safe. If those tests were done when not many students were around, then what would the levels be in the middle of January?

"And in addition, the humidifiers in the Simcoe and Merritt wings were shut down and this causes dry, smoky air to be recirculated through the college. How good is that?"

Mr. Woodhouse said the humidifiers specified were shut down when problems arose with mold and fungi were discovered in the humidifiers. They were cleaned, but not reactivated. He said while the lack of humidifiers can result in the recirulation of dry air, it would have no effect on smokey air.

Mr. Woodhouse agreed with Mr. Taylor that smoking is the main culprit of the air quality problems. At the next College Council meeting Feb. 12, Mr. Woodhouse said he will be presenting a feasibility study which will detail possible shelters which could provide smokers with a place to smoke outside.

"Personally, I feel that it's a regressive step to smoke in the building," he said. "We are discussing (the feasibility) of having bus stop booths set up outside of the buidings for smokers, or having portables or an indoor designated smoking area, one that is ventilated to the outside."

Mr. Taylor says the effect of the smokers is far-reaching and serious."I notice that many of my students in class have to struggle to keep their attention up because of the poor air," he said. "I find myself doing the same thing at times."

Mr. Taylor said he was not alone in his opinions about air quality. The suggestion that further objective, third-party testing take place was well-received by College Council.

Mr. Woodhouse said fining people for smoking in a prohibited place is a time-consuming process.

"In order for a violation of Bill 194 to be enforced, the Ontario Ministry of Labor has to be contacted," he said. "Someone would then come down and review the situation here. Fines may then be given out.

"We'd like to try to educate people through positive reinforcement to smoke outside," he said. "Tell them that they're in violation of Bill 194, and that the no-smoking signs are there to show people that it's wrong to smoke indoors."

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Wintercourse, Wilcox

WINTERCOURSE from page 1

"This was the best Wilcox pub we've ever had," Donna Flutur, SAC office manager, said. "We sold out this concert. I'm totally impressed with everything — Wilcox, his road crew, the crowd, everything. I couldn't have asked for a better night."

"We ran out of beer at 11:30 p.m. but that eliminated any drunkenness. The crowd was pacified and left quietly after the show."

"This (concert) is great. It's really worth the ($14 sign-in admission) price," Donley Cloutier, a former Niagara College student, said.

"Oh yeah, (this concert) is definitely worth the price," Christine Racine, a first-year hotel and restaurant management student, said. "But, I think people should be made more aware of concerts like this."

"(Wilcox's) stage presence was spectacular," Jamie Heath, SAC executive vice-president, said. "The concert was just amazing."

"The music is really good. I think the price is kind of steep, but it's worth it. I just wonder where the money goes," Jake Vankralinger, a second-year electrical engineering student, said.

Rob Heroux, a first-year general college student, summed up the concert this way: "The music is great and the beer is cold. What else do you need?"

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